

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

FEAE-00 L-02 AID-05 /064 W
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R 241500Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5064

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

RYMBEJ AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 3

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

RUQMKWXAMEMBASSY KUWAIT 473

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0473

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BRIEFING FOR FOREIGN MINISTER RE CHIEF OF MISSION
CONFERENCE

1. ON FEBRUARY 23 I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MEET WITH FONMIN ABDULLAH AL-ASNAG (LATTER HAS BEEN SICK FOR LAST SEVERAL DAYS.) IN ORDER TO BRIEF HIM RE FEBRUARY 15 CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN RIYADH. AT THE OUTSET I CONVEYED SECRETARY'S PERSONAL GREETINGS AS WELL AS SECRETARY'S RECOLLECTION OF ASNAG IN N.Y. AS THE "MAN WITH THE SENSE OF HUMOR WHO SAT NEXT TO ME".

2. ASNAG WARMLY RECIPROCATED THE GREETINGS AS WELL AS THE RECOLLECTION AND ALSO EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR MY BRIEFING WHICH
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COVERED SALIENT POINTS IN SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION INCLUDING: (A)

SECRETARY'S "GUARDED OPTIMISM" AS A RESULT OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO AREA AND HIS INTENTION TO RETURN IN EARLY MARCH FOR SECOND PHASE OF TALKS; (B) SECRETARY'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PROCESS AHEAD AS "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT"; (C) US DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE SEARCH FOR PEACE THROUGH STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH; (D) SECRETARY'S REFUTATION OF CHANGE US SEEKING TO DEVIDE THE ARABS, AND (E) SECRETARY'S STRONG BELIEF THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE NOT APPROPRIATE FOURM AT THIS TIME.

3. ASNAG EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR SECRETARY'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IN HANDLING ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION AND AGREED THAT HOLDING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME WOULD LEAD TO STALEMATE AND WOULD ONLY BENEFIT SOVIETS AND EXTREMISTS ON BOTH ARAB AND ISRAELI SIDES.

4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE I ALSO PROVIDED ASNAG WITH HIGHLIGHTS OF SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION RE ENERGY CRISIS EMPHASIZING USG NOT SEEKING CONFRONTATION WITH OIL PRODUCERS. I ALSO INFORMED HIM OF SECRETARY'S DESIRE FOR CLOSE BI-LATERAL CONSULATIONS WITH THE OIL STATES PRIOR TO CONFERENCE BETWEEN PRODUCER AND CONSUMER STATES. HERE AGAIN ASNAG EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR SECRETARY'S APPROACH AND PARTICULARLY WELCOMED SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO CONSULT WITH ARAB OIL STATES IN GULF.

5. ASNAG ASKED IF SECRETARY WOULD BE VISITING THE GULF AREA AND IF RO, EXPRESSED YORONG HOPE THAT SECRETARY WOULD ALSO VISIT YEMEN. I TOLD HIM THAT AT THIS TIME SECRETARY COULD MAKE NO DEFINITE PLANS BUT THAT IF OPPORTUNITY PRY ENTED ITSELF SECRETARY WOULD WELCOME CHANCE TO COME TO SANA'A. ASNAG COMMENTED THAT EVEN A FEW HOURS IN EACH CAPITAL IN PENINSULA COULD HAVE GREAT "PSYCHOLOGICAL" EFFECT, PARTICULARLY IF SECRETARY COULD COME AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF HIS NEXT NEGOTIATIONS. SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE TALKS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANAA00473
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750064-0968
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750218/aaaaaqdu.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING FOR FOREIGN MINISTER RE CHIEF OF MISSION CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, YE, US, XF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (AL-ASNAG, ABDULLAH), (SAID, AHMED ABDU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006